

Preface

Lung cancer, part II: current status and
treatment of small cell lung cancer



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Guest Editor

While the previous issue of the *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America* was devoted to locally advanced and metastatic non–small cell lung cancer, this issue is devoted to small cell lung cancer, which comprises approximately 20% of all lung cancer cases. Similarly to the previous issue, we have attempted to present all important aspects of this disease, including basic concepts of treatment and specific issues of current state-of-the-art treatment regardless of stage, age, or toxicity, not forgetting prognostic factors, new approaches, and quality of life. To accomplish this goal, an international team of experts has provided an in-depth analysis of what has happened in the last few decades and where we stand today. Furthermore, we have attempted to open a debate for tomorrow by identifying some of the troublesome questions and shortcomings of current clinical research in small cell lung cancer.

I am grateful to the faculty of experts who agreed to serve this purpose. If we jointly recruit you, the reader, for an army of thoracic oncologists fighting this disease, then we have succeeded. If we motivate you to devote more time to clinical research in this field, then we have succeeded even more. However, our ultimate success depends on our younger colleagues who will consider this effort

worthwhile before embarking on design and performance of clinical studies, the activity through which we serve our patients best.

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